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April 16, 2007

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Group Art Unit 3694

Mail Stop: Amendment

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No.: 10/615,796; Filed: July 10, 2003

Methods and Apparatus Relating to the Formulation and Trading of

**Investment Contracts** 

Inventor:

Ian Kenneth SHEPHERD

Our Ref:

2151.0050002

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a);
- 2. Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment;
- 3. Substitute Specification (Clean Version);
- 4. Substitute Specification (Marked Up Version);
- 5. One (1) return postcard; and
- 6. Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) in the amount of \$450.00 to cover the two (2) month extension of time fee.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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RES:ddc Enclosures

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